

THE GREEN FLAG OF THE PROPHECY.

A Universal Symbolism—Its Origin—An Emblem of Extremism.

Since the commencement of the war between Russia and Turkey, the world has several times been startled by the announcement that the "Flag of the Prophet" was about to be unfurled in the streets of Stamboul.

An unusually mild autumn was signalized at its close by three severe earthquake shocks. These shocks were felt in the East, in the West, and in the South.

This fearful appeal to all the worst passions of the Eastern races hangs like a menace over the Mohammedan world; and if the word was once uttered and the dread flag unfurled, there is no telling to what sanguinary excesses it might lead an enthusiastic and half-savage people.

There have been many flags or signals used by various nations at different crises in their history to incite the people to battle on behalf of religions, dynasties and ideas; but none has attained to the fearful notoriety which appertains to the terrible flag of the Prophet.

In France the "oriflamme" or golden sun upon a field of crimson signified "no quarter"; but this celebrated flag of the Prophet means infinitely more than this. It is a summons to an anti-Christian crusade, a challenge of every believer in the Prophet to arms; a war-signal, in fact, which, like the fiery Cross of Scotland, would flash its dread command through the domain of Islam.

The prophet himself predicted that one day, when his followers should number 100,000,000—which they do now, with 30,000,000 more added to it—his flag should fly against the advancing power of the northern races; and the Koran or the Mohammedan Bible says that when its golden folds are flung forth "the earth will shake, the mountains melt into dust, the seas blaze up in fire, and the children's hair grow white with anguish."

The origin of the insignia is a curious one. Mohammed gazing out upon a vast prospect of field, said: "Nature is green, and green shall be my emblem, for it is everlasting and universal."

In course of time, however, it lost that innocent significance; and amid his visions the great dreamer saw the Green Flag floating as a sign that all true believers should take up their arms and march against the infidel; in fact, the green turban was the sacred head-dress of the pilgrim or perfected Islamite who had gone to Mecca; and hence the sanctity of this formidable standard.

When once unfurled, it summons all Islam by an adjuration from the Koran that the sword is the solitary emblem and instrument of faith, independence and patriotism; that armies, not priests, make converts; and that sharpened steel is the "true key to heaven."

This is the outbreak of barbarism with which the world is threatened in this year of grace 1877; and the reader cannot do otherwise than mark the cunning and the portentous words inscribed on the prophet's banners. What would not men do, civilized or savage, for "temporal advantages"? While to the Eastern people fasting and praying are looked upon as so meritorious a nature, that to find something else which, in the eyes of Allah, would be deemed of greater value still, would be a desideratum which none would fail to grasp, by any means whatever, if it came within their reach.

The standard itself is not a very handsome one, and is surpassed both in value and appearance by many of the banners which belong to the various benefit societies and other mutual associations of men in this country. It is of green silk, with a large crescent on the top of the staff, from which is suspended a long plume of horse-hair (said to have been the tail of the Prophet's favorite Arab steed), while the broad folds of the flag exhibit the crescent and the quotations from the Koran already mentioned.

THE EARTHQUAKES.

Three Earthquakes—An American Volcano—The Earthquake in the Eastern States—Exciting Experiences of Inhabitants of Western Cities—The Southern Earthquake.

An unusually mild autumn was signalized at its close by three severe earthquake shocks. These shocks were felt in the East, in the West, and in the South.

The latest earthquake shocks, which especially affected western Iowa, and were still sharper in northeastern Nebraska and southwestern Dakota, bring to mind the fact that the "Ionia volcano," known to a few scientific investigators of the west as existing in the high bluffs near the little village of Ionia, in northeastern Nebraska, is directly in the centre of the area traversed by the earthquake vibrations of Thursday noon.

The little fire-mountain has at times, in the memory of Indian and white settlers, put on all the airs of an embryonic, but ambitious volcano. From out the seams or fissures in the rocks that locality have come vapors, heat and rumbling sounds. No snow could long accumulate in winter in close proximity to this place, since the heat of the ground would melt it, and springs of water running from the side of the bluff have been made too warm for drinking uses.

The first of these disturbances of the earth's surface was perceived on November 4, by the inhabitants of northern New Hampshire, Vermont, western Massachusetts, northern and central New York and Canada.

The shocks were from west to east. They were especially violent in the Adirondack mountains region. On November 15, an earthquake shock was felt in the States of Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa, and in Dakota Territory. The shock was a very severe one, and its effects were perceptible in all the cities of the States mentioned.

The earthquake was felt throughout the State. The court-house at North Platte was injured, and the walls of the school-house of the place so shaken that the frightened children left the building. The walls of a court-house in Columbus were cracked in nine places. The court-house at Plattsmouth was also slightly damaged; and the two upper stories of the high school, a four-story brick, were cracked, and some children were injured while fleeing from the building.

The children of a school in Peru ran out of the building in great alarm. Two distinct shocks of earthquake were felt at Blair; goods carelessly placed on store shelves were tumbled upon the floor; but no buildings were damaged. At Fort Randall, the earthquake lasted nearly a minute; buildings were violently shaken, and several Indians at Yankton agency were greatly excited, and goods were scattered off the shelves in the trader's store.

In Lincoln, at the Globe office, the racks were swayed and iron in the third story, the type rattled in the cases, and although there was not a breath of air stirring, the windows shook and rattled as if a gale of wind was blowing outside. The county officers at work in the second story of the State block, a large building of brick and stone, became alarmed and ran frantically down stairs into the streets. Most merchants left their stores.

In Sioux City, Iowa, there were two earthquake waves, the second being the most powerful and immediately following the first. There was a continuous rattling lasting for a second or two. In the court house the district court was in session in the upper story. The building began rocking, the chandeliers clanged, and apparently everything was about to tumble into ruin when the court, jury, and spectators rushed to the street bareheaded and greatly excited.

A large congregation in St. Mary's Catholic Church, present to witness confirmation ceremonies, sprang to their feet in alarm, and would have rushed madly from the building but for the reassuring words of the priest. Several women fainted, and two were injured by jumping from their seats in the choir. The school teachers in the High School building were also greatly alarmed and fled into the street. Fortunately no one was injured, although several of the scholars leaped into the street from the first story windows. One of the walls of the building was badly cracked. The clocks in many houses were stopped, crockery was broken, and in one house all the panes in a window were broken.

IN KANSAS THE SHOCK WAS NOTICED AT TOPEKA AND ATCHISON.

At Topeka, in the morning, the employees felt the building rocking gently from north to south. Three gentlemen seated in one of the rooms suddenly looked at each other and exclaimed: "What is that?" Several men felt sick and dizzy, and ran to the windows to see if there was a train passing.

In one room a door was shut and the rocking-chairs rocked. At Atchison there was a severe shock, and hundreds of people rushed into the streets. In the city clerk's office the chandeliers trembled for ten minutes after the shock. No damage was done. The earthquake was also felt in St. Joseph, Mo., and in St. Paul, Minn.

On November 16, the day following the earthquake in the West, a violent earthquake shock was felt at Knoxville, Tenn. The shock was apparently only perceived at this place in the South, as there are no reports from any other Southern city of such an occurrence. Knoxville buildings are not reported to have been damaged.

Our Exports of Agricultural Products. The following table shows in the first place a comprehensive classification of our agricultural exports, and in the second place the balance in our favor obtained by deducting the value of our imports from that of the entire bulk of products, manufactures, etc., exported.

Table with columns: Year, Total value, and other agricultural product categories.

The Markets. Beef Cattle—Native, 05 1/2; Milch Cows, 40 00; Hogs—Live, 05 1/2; Sheep—Dressed, 04 1/2; Lamb, 05 1/2; Cotton—Middling, 11 1/2; Wheat—No. 1, 1 1/4; Corn—No. 2, 70 00; Flour—No. 1, 4 1/4; Rice—No. 1, 13 1/2; Sugar—No. 1, 10 1/2; Coffee—No. 1, 23 1/2; Tea—No. 1, 24 1/2; Petroleum—Crude, 09 1/2; Wool—California, 20 00; Butter—No. 1, 27 1/2; Eggs—No. 1, 20 1/2; Hops—No. 1, 10 1/2; Oats—No. 1, 20 00; Beans—No. 1, 10 00; Peas—No. 1, 10 00; Potatoes—No. 1, 10 00; Apples—No. 1, 10 00; Oranges—No. 1, 10 00; Lemons—No. 1, 10 00; Raisins—No. 1, 10 00; Prunes—No. 1, 10 00; Walnuts—No. 1, 10 00; Almonds—No. 1, 10 00; Pistachios—No. 1, 10 00; Cashews—No. 1, 10 00; Pecans—No. 1, 10 00; Chestnuts—No. 1, 10 00; Hazelnuts—No. 1, 10 00; Macadamia—No. 1, 10 00; Brazil—No. 1, 10 00; Copra—No. 1, 10 00; Castor—No. 1, 10 00; Tallow—No. 1, 10 00; Lard—No. 1, 10 00; Soap—No. 1, 10 00; Candles—No. 1, 10 00; Paper—No. 1, 10 00; Ink—No. 1, 10 00; Stationery—No. 1, 10 00; Books—No. 1, 10 00; Maps—No. 1, 10 00; Globes—No. 1, 10 00; Toys—No. 1, 10 00; Games—No. 1, 10 00; Amusement—No. 1, 10 00; Miscellaneous—No. 1, 10 00.

How Long will the Forests Last. Under such a tremendous yearly drain, the question naturally comes up, how long will our forests hold out at the present rate of manufacture? It is really an important question, upon which follows the inquiry as to what we are to do for building material when this magnificent wood-pine is exhausted.

One authority after another has entered formally upon its solution, with satisfactory results. In local instances, but very vague ones as to the field at large. At the same time we are cutting it to-day, from thirty to fifty years seem to be agreed upon as about the limit. Twenty years ago there was apparently no limit, for the consumption was not only less, but the means for its manufacture were primitive, and accomplished much smaller results than now.

It seems as if it were impossible to further improve the machinery of saw-mills; but the near future may, for all that, see sawing machinery in comparison to what that of the present will be contemptible. So, although twenty years ago there was no foreseeing the end of the timber, now, with the modern mills and myriads of them, we are beginning to calculate with dire certainty, as to the time when the "Wooden Age" will be a thing of the past.

Productions of States. Iowa now takes rank as the greatest wheat-producing State, Minnesota comes next in order, then Illinois, Wisconsin taking the fourth place. Ohio raises the most winter wheat and wool. Illinois grows the most corn and oats and produces the largest number of fat cattle and hogs. Pennsylvania grows the most rye, amounting to nearly one-fifth the total production of that cereal in the States. California produces the greatest barley crop, and also the most silk cocoons and wine. New York gives us the greatest amount of hay, hops, potatoes, peas and beans.

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